IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 16 and 20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for switching data from any of a plurality of inputs to any of a plurality of outputs, said data formatted as data blocks containing a fixed number of bits of data, each data block comprising "O" bit packs containing a number of bits "P", where O and P are integers, said apparatus comprising:

apparatus for receiving a plurality of respective input bit packs organized in a combination of input data rails and time slots,

apparatus for selecting any of the respective input bit packs from any of the rails in any of the time slots, and

apparatus for conveying said selected bit pack to any output data position within a combination of output data rails and time slots.

2. (Original) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein each bit pack is one bit wide.

3. (Original) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus for receiving, selecting, and conveying a plurality of bit packs is configured for selecting a plurality of input bit packs for output in a plurality of output data positions.

4. (Original) Apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus for receiving, selecting, and conveying a plurality of bit packs is configured for selecting a single bit pack for output in a plurality of output positions.

5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for switching data from an array of N input positions arranged as T time slots on R rails to any of M output positions arranged as T2 time slots on R2 rails, said data formatted as data blocks containing a fixed number of bits of

data, each data block comprising "O" bit packs containing a numbe of bits "P", where O and P are integers, said apparatus comprising:

apparatus for receiving respective ~~input data arranged as~~ bit packs in T time slots on R rails,

apparatus for selecting bit packs ~~data~~ from any of the R rails and latching the selected bit packs ~~data~~ during a predetermined time slot to thereby select a bit pack of predetermined R and T values, and

apparatus for conveying said selected bit pack to any output position of predetermined R2 and T2 values.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for switching data from any of N input positions arranged as T time slots on R rails to any of M output positions arranged as T2 time slots on R2 rails, said data formatted as data blocks containing a fixed number of bits of data, each data block comprising "O" bit packs containing a number of bits "P", where O and P are integers, said apparatus comprising:

M selection blocks, each configured to select a bit pack of respective input bit packs for a different one of the output positions, and each block including:

apparatus for receiving respective input data arranged as bit packs in T time slots on R rails,

apparatus for selecting data from any of the R rails and latching the selected data during a predetermined time slot to thereby select a bit pack of predetermined R and T values, and

apparatus for conveying said selected bit pack to any output position of predetermined T2 and R2 values.

7. (Original) Apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:

a T2 X R2 output bit map configured for receiving a selected bit pack in each

location from a different one of the M selection blocks.

8. (Original) Apparatus of claim 7 further comprising:

a second T2 X R2 output bit map configured to be loaded in parallel from the first output bit map.

9. (Original) Apparatus of claim 8 further comprising:

apparatus configured to arrange input bit packs as an array of T time slots on R rails and to convey output bit packs from the second T2 X R2 bit map on R2 rails in T2 time slots.

10. (Original) Apparatus of claim 9 wherein N = M = 768.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for switching data from any of N input positions arranged as T time slots on R rails to any of M output positions arranged as T2 time slots on R2 rails, said data formatted as data blocks containing a fixed number of bits of data, each data block comprising "O" bit packs containing a number of bits "P", where O and P are integers, said apparatus comprising:

R2 selection blocks, each configured to select a bit pack of respective input bit packs for a different one of the output positions, and each block including:

apparatus for receiving respective input data arranged as bit packs on N rails,

apparatus for selecting data from any of the N rails, and

apparatus for conveying said selected bit pack to any output position of predetermined T2 and R2 values.

12. (Original) Apparatus of claim 11 further comprising:

a T X R input bit map configured for receiving a selected bit pack in each location from a different one of the N space/time input positions.

13. (Original) Apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

a second T X R input bit map configured to be loaded in parallel from the first input bit map and to convey N input bit packs to each of the R2 selection blocks and to hold the N input bit packs available to the R2 selection blocks during T2 time slots.

14. (Previously Presented) Apparatus of claim 11 further comprising:

apparatus configured to arrange input bit packs as an array of T time slots on R rails and to convey output bit packs from the second T2 X R2 bit map on R2 rails in T2 time slots.

15. (Original) Apparatus of claim 14 wherein N = M =768.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of switching data from any of N input positions arranged as T time slots on R rails to any of M output positions arranged as T2 time slots on R2 rails, said data formatted as data blocks containing a fixed number of bits of data, each data block comprising "O" bit packs containing a number of bits "P", where O and P are integers, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) in each of R2 selection blocks, selecting a bit pack of respective input bit packs for a different one of the output positions, and

(b) conveying each of the bit packs selected in step (a) to the associated one of the output positions.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein step (a) comprises the further step of:

(c) receiving input data arranged as bit packs on N rails.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein step (a) comprises the further step of:

(d) selecting a bit pack from any of the N rails.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein step a comprises the further step of:

(e) conveying said selected bit pack to an output position of predetermined T2 and R2 values.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of switching data from any of N input positions arranged as T time slots on R rails to any of M output positions arranged as T2 time slots on R2 rails, said data formatted as data blocks containing a fixed number of bits of data, each data block comprising "O" bit packs containing a number of bits "P", where O and P are integers, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) in each of M selection blocks, selecting a bit pack of respective input bit packs for a different one of the output positions, and

(b) conveying each of the bit packs selected in step (a) to the associated one of the output positions.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein step (a) further comprises the steps of:

(c) receiving input data arranged as bit packs in T time slot on R rails, and

(d) selecting data from any of the R rails and latching the selected data during a predetermined time slot to thereby select a bit pack of predetermined R and T values.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein step (b) further comprises the step of:

(e) conveying said selected bit pack to any output position of predetermined T2 and R2 values.